

Office of Safe and Supportive Schools



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"As the new Associate Executive Director for the Office of Safe & Supportive Schools I am excited about the opportunity of working with each of you in your efforts to provide a safe learning environment for students. As the former Safe Schools coordinator for Sumner County Schools I know that a safe learning environment is essential for students of all ages. It makes perfect sense that students who feel safe and connected are more likely to attend school, be engaged in learning, and perform better academically and socially.

We want to hear from you! Future newsletters will spotlight districts and the great things you are doing to support students. So, please share with us your success stories. I look forward to meeting and working with you."

Pat Conner

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Assisting Tennessee schools in their efforts to provide safe and supportive learning environments for all students

The Office of Safe & Supportive Schools was established to assist Tennessee schools in their efforts to provide and maintain a safe and supportive learning environment. A particular focus is placed upon fostering partnerships between schools and the communities they serve. The Office coordinates training and program

development activities related to extended learning, school safety, school climate, character education, alternative and nontraditional education, and school counselor support. The Office of Safe & Supportive Schools also administers several grant programs including the following:

21st Century Community Learning Centers, Lottery for Education: Afterschool Programs (LEAPs), Safe Schools Act of 1998, SAVE (Schools Against Violence in Education) Act, and Safe and Supportive Schools Grant (S3).

Bullying/Harassment Information

The passage of the Chapter 992 of the Public Acts of 2012 (PC 992) established additional requirements for local education agencies (LEAs) to do the following at the beginning of each school year:

- Provide teachers and counselors with a copy of the policy required under Tenn. Code Ann. §49-6-1016 as well as information and training on implementation of the policy including strategies to address bullying and harassment when it happens.
- Make available to students and parents information relative to bullying prevention and provide opportunities to discuss prevention policies and bullying prevention strategies. Additionally, each LEA is required, beginning

August 1, 2013:

- To annually submit a report to the department (concerning the number of bullying cases brought to the attention of school officials during the preceding year and the manner in which they were resolved or the reason they are still pending. Finally, principals of middle, junior high or high schools, or their designees, are required to:
 - Investigate harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber-bullying when a student reports to any principal, teacher or guidance counselor that physical harm or a threat of physical harm to such student's person or property has occurred. Following such investigation, the principal or designee is

further required to report the findings, along with any disciplinary action taken, to the director of schools and the chair of the local board of education.

- For additional resources, see our webpage [here](#):
- For further questions, contact: Peachie Jones at Peachie.Jones@tn.gov (615) 253-1550.

Bullying Policy to Practice Trainings

Sept. 23, 2013 in Nashville,
Sept. 25, 2013 in Knoxville,
Sept. 27, 2013 in Jackson.
See our webpage [here](#) to register.

International Bullying Prevention Association Conference, November 10 -12, Downtown Nashville Sheraton.



The overarching goal of the 21st CCLC program is to provide students – particularly students who attend schools in need of improvement – with academic enrichment opportunities and support services to help them meet state and local standards in the core content areas.

The Tennessee Department of Education has been awarded a discretionary grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support district and school measurement of, and targeted programmatic interventions to improve, conditions for learning.

Tennessee is one of 11 states that have been awarded this grant. We are the only state that has developed our own survey to determine conditions for learning and that intend to connect academic data to the conditions for learning data.

21st Century Community Learning Centers Awards

The Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, Center for Extended Learning administers federal funding under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program of ESEA (NCLB Act of 2001). Community learning centers provide students with opportunities for academic enrichment, youth development and family support during non-school hours. The program specifically targets helping all students meet challenging state and local academic standards.

In July, approximately \$8 million in competitive grants was awarded to local educational agencies (LEA's), community-based and faith-based organizations. New grant

recipients are:

- Athens City Schools
- Boys & Girls Club-Cumberland Plateau
- Bledsoe County Schools
- Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools
- Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority
- Hamilton County Schools
- Johnson County Schools
- Loudon County Schools
- Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Putnam County Schools
- Shelby County Schools
- Tipton County Schools
- YWCA-Greater Memphis
- Backfield in Motion
- Boys & Girls Club-TN
- Bradford SSD
- Coalition for Kids
- Gibson County Schools
- Hardeman County Schools
- Knox County Schools
- Marion County Schools
- Obion County Schools
- Save the Children Federation, INC
- Smith County Schools
- Tullahoma City Schools
- Boys & Girls Club-Cleveland
- Boys & Girls Club-TN Valley
- Carter County Schools
- DeKalb County Schools
- Greeneville City Schools



From Left: Carol Nixon, Rodger Dinwiddie, Beverly Goetzman, Kimberly Daubenspeck, Pat Conner, Eric Johnson, Teresa Whitaker, Deborah Arnold, and Liz Burton.

School Climate Regional Meetings

S3 District Coordinators, School Climate Team Members, Principals, Assistant Principals, School Counselors and Central Office Staff from 27 pilot districts across Tennessee were invited to participate in interactive meetings held regionally where School Climate data and best practices were shared. Participants learned about school climate reform and the importance of youth engagement in the project.

The Tennessee School Climate Survey collects student perceptions of three broad areas of their school experience: (1) engagement, (2) safety and (3) environment. In the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years, we have collected student perceptions from high school students only. We have developed and piloted a Middle School survey that is ready for survey administration this fall. Surveys are col-

lected online at www.safeschoolstn.org or via paper. Resources and best practices regarding school climate can also be found on this webpage. If you would like to participate in the High School or Middle School Survey, please contact Kimberly Daubenspeck at kimberly.daubenspeck@tn.gov or call 615-532-0469.

Safe Schools and SAVE Act Update

A series of regional meetings were held in June to assist districts in meeting the school safety planning requirements established under the Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Act. Districts have been asked to update their district's current emergency operations plan and electronically submit their revised plan to the Office of Safe & Supportive Schools. The complete package along with instructions and extensive resource directory can be found on the SAVE Act website [here](#) Grants to LEA's

under the Safe School grant program have been released for school year 2013-2014. Grant funding may be used for a wide range of security and violence prevention purposes. Allocation amounts and an application package are located on the Safe and Supportive Schools website [here](#)

If you have questions about SAVE Act or Safe Schools, please contact Pat Conner at Pat.Conner@tn.gov or (615) 741-3248.

Partnership Opportunity

The Office of Safe and Supportive Schools is partnering with Coordinated School Health and Family Resource Centers to present a series of regional meetings to highlight available resources to improve conditions for learning for Tennessee students and their families. All Family Resource Center and Coordinated School Health directors are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Jan.Bushing@tn.gov or 741-0345

- To attend please register at: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/TPOnline/TPOnline.dll/Public%20Course%20Classes/COURSENO=COUR2013082715585600420020>
- October 22, 2013: UTLEIC Building, Oak Ridge
- October 30, 2013: Teacher Learning Center, Murfreesboro City Schools
- November 7, 2013: UT Ag Center, Jackson

Announcing School Counselors Advisory Committee

The first meeting of the School Counseling Advisory Committee was held on July 12, 2013. The committee was developed to help provide a communication platform for school counselors to gain clarification on issues that impact our students and to be able to send information to the Department of Education on what works and what needs improvement. The committee was selected based on those

expressing an interest or nominated and with an attempt for broad representation of all types of schools. School Counseling Advisory Committee members are:

- Cindy Eason, Henderson County
- Nancy Reed, Hamilton County
- Sharon Yarber, Marion County
- Leigh Bagwell, Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Pam Lankford, Williamson County

- Shawn Palombo, Warren County
- Anne Troutman, Knox County
- Michael Bundy, TCA President
- Beverly Anderson TSCA President
- Randy McPherson TCA/TSCA
- Government Relations/Advocacy
- Lori Paisley, Department of Education

"The overall mission of Safe and Supportive Schools is to insure safe and supportive learning environments, thereby increasing academic success for all students."

Governor's Advisory Council for Alternative Education

The Governor's Advisory Council for Alternative Education is comprised of members which include parents of children attending an alternative school or who have attended, teachers, principals, members of local boards of education, community representatives, and a member of the Tennessee Alternative Education Association. Appointments are made by the Governor for a term of three years. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to advise, assist and consult the Governor, Commissioner of

Education, General Assembly and the State Board of Education in matters related to alternative education in Tennessee schools. The council meets quarterly and members are:

- Trent McVay, Shelby County
- Joris Ray, Shelby County
- Denise White, Rutherford County
- Gary Houck, Anderson County
- Kay Davenport, Rutherford County
- Kecia Ray, Davidson County

- Elvie Newcomb, Davidson County
- Renea Jones-Rodgers, Unicoi County
- Carol Ann Woods, McNairy County
- Lori Paisley, Department of Education

Contact Information

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Trainings & Special Events

Bullying Policy to Practice Trainings

September 23, 2013 – Nashville - 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

September 25, 2013 – Knoxville- 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

September 27, 2013 – Jackson - 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

To Register: [http://www.tn.gov/education/safe_schls/
training_calendar.shtml](http://www.tn.gov/education/safe_schls/training_calendar.shtml)



November 10-12, 2013

Sheraton Hotel Downtown Nashville

[http://www.stopbullyingworld.org/index.php/2013-
01-14-03-42-16](http://www.stopbullyingworld.org/index.php/2013-01-14-03-42-16)

The Great US ShakeOut Drill:

October 17, 2013



<http://redribbon.org/theme/>